



April 8-9, 2009

## Improving traditional Medicare's benefit design

**ISSUE:** The design of Medicare's FFS benefits and cost-sharing requirements, along with the degree to which supplemental coverage fills in that cost sharing, affects beneficiaries' decisions to seek care and the types of providers and services they use.

**KEY POINTS:** In this session, we provide an overview of the wide variation in Medicare beneficiaries' financial liability for premiums and cost sharing. We will also discuss potential policy goals for future changes to FFS Medicare's benefit design.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should provide feedback on this research.

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